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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "The Bradek steel plant is located about 5 km east of Rokycany. Until 1948 it was a branch factory of the Skoda Works in Pilsen. The following remarks are dated January 1953 or earlier.

2. Production The production of the Kradek plant consists mainly of special steel for artillery shells. This steel is delivered to the CKD plants in Blansko and Vsetin in Moravia. Iron rods (8-26 mm in diameter) are also produced at Kradek and triangle-shaped rods are rolled. The shavings (struska) are sent to the iron works in Kralupy nad Vltavou, near Beroun, where they are used in Martin blast furnaces.

3. "New production halls are under construction at Mradek. The old machinery and equipment is being modernized. A number of wooden huts are under construction for the accommodation of brigade workers.
4. "For the internal factory railway there are three locomotives. Only one is in operation; the other two are kept in reserve in case the first one breaks down. Trains of the State Railways arrive at the Mradek plant at regular intervals each day, at 9 am 2:30 pm and 9 pm. They bring coal, firewood, building materials (sand, cement, lime, manganese, pig iron, magnesite, dolomite, scrap iron and ingots. The finished products are also shipped away by rail.
5. "The building of the steel plant itself is about 100 m long, 30 m wide and 30 m high. There are two cranes inside. One is used for transporting finished ingots, the other for lifting the ingots out of the moulds and transporting slag.
6. "The plant has three Martin furnaces. During the winter of 1952-53 these were the target of sabotage attempts. On several occasions the small pile (kanalek) was blocked during the melting process. This necessitated cooling the contents of the furnaces and re-treating the ingots. On the special vessel, commonly called milda,

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in which scrap iron is put into the furnaces, a special kind of powder is formed which is very harmful to the tiles inside the furnace. When this powder is left deliberately on the mulda it gets into the furnaces and the tiles begin to disintegrate. This sabotage has become quite common practice. The furnaces have to be removed from operation three times a month for repairs.

7. "In spring 1952 a huge heap of coal, about 30 [] loads, was set afire by saboteurs and burned completely. Large heaps of coal are piled up in the open in the factory yard. Since the 1952 'accident' they have been guarded day and night by armed members of the factory Militia.
8. "Attached to the Hradek plant are three rolling mills:
 - (a) Rolling mill No 1 has a new furnace with a capacity of 380 ingots, weighing from 40 to 120 kg. Round and triangle-shaped rods are also rolled there. In the finishing workshop (upravna) of this rolling mill there are several electric machines (rovnačky), partly old and partly new models.
 - (b) The building of rolling mill No. 2 and its finishing workshop is about 200 m long, 30 m wide and 15 m high. The machinery there is even more old-fashioned than that of No 1. The capacity of the furnace is 350 ingots in three daily shifts. The cranes are very old.
 - (c) In rolling mill No 3 there are two cranes. One operates in the finishing workshop. The other transports finished products to the freight [] which take the ingots to the stores of rolling mills No 1 and No 2. In rolling mill No 3 there are two kilns for heating ingots. There is a new kiln with a daily capacity of 100 ingots and an old kiln with a capacity of 60 ingots. Rolling mill No 3 uses its own ingots for the production of artillery shells. The ingots for rolling mills No 1 and 2 are supplied by the steel works in Vitkovice and Kladno.
9. "At the Hradek plant a building 150 m x 20 m x 15 m houses the machine, carpentry and paint workshops. The machine shop is equipped with modern machinery. It has several 'crane-transporters' operated by electricity or by hand. All machinery in the plant, including the cranes, are repaired in these workshops.
10. "The gas generators used for heating the furnaces are housed in two buildings. These generators were completed at the end of 1951. They generate gas for the three rolling mills, the steel plant and the steel tempering workshop (ziharna). Coal sheds are attached to each generator building. The shed attached to the new building is about 50 m long and 5 m deep. The walls are of concrete. It has a crane with an 8 t capacity. The coal shed attached to the old building is smaller.
11. "A building next to the steel plant houses the administrative offices and research laboratories.
12. "The factory's power plant is capable of producing about one-fifth of the plant's total electricity consumption.
13. "Spare parts are stored in a shed 25 m long and 10 m high. On the opposite side /presumably opposite the spare parts shed/ of the industrial railway tracks there is a store for mineral oils, naphtha, petrol and other inflammable materials.
14. "The steel tempering workshop is located in a modern building. It consists of seven modern furnaces with cranes. The finishing workshop attached (upravna) has been equipped with modern machines and cranes.
15. "Arms for the factory militia are stored in a building which has barred windows, shutters made of tin 5 mm thick, and double doors. The building is not guarded.
16. "The water pumping station (odpaci stanice) has four pumps and a water tank which was installed in 1952. This tank is about 20 m high. Its capacity is 600 cubic meters.

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17. "Almost all the buildings and sheds at the Hradek steel plant have roofs made of timber covered with tar paper. The exceptions are the canteen buildings and the offices of the factory directorate. These buildings have tile roofs.
18. "Surrounding the whole plant there is an ordinary fence topped with three rows of barbed wire. At the main gate two armed guards are on permanent duty.

Free Labour

19. "The chairman of the plant council is (fnu) Bejcek. He was elected towards the end of 1952. He was known as the best shockworker and lathe-turner in the machine shop.
20. "The plant militia consists of 30 reliable Communists, among them one woman, whose first name is Vera.
21. "Work is organized in three daily shifts: 6 am to 2 pm, 2 pm to 10 pm and 10 pm to 6 am. Lunch and supper are served in the canteen. Only about one-third of the workers eat there regularly. Almost all the men with families bring their lunch with them to save money.
22. "A great number of the workers are former farmers from Rokycany and neighbouring villages whose farms have been confiscated. About 10% of the workers are women.
23. "The workers in the winter of 1952-53 were dissatisfied with working conditions and with the political situation in general. Yet, they did not dare complain because there were many Communist informers among them. Grumbling and insubordination are punished by transfer to badly paid, more difficult jobs, such as loading and unloading of waggons or work at construction sites around the plant. Only prisoners are assigned usually to these jobs.
24. "The rate of absenteeism is high. On the average about 20% of the labor force are absent each day. The names of workers absent from work without proper excuse are prominently displayed on the bulletin board. Another bulletin board displays various work pledges made in honor of Czechoslovak and Soviet communist leaders. A further bulletin board, near the guard room lists the names of winners in social competitions and their rewards.

25.
The workers in these two departments are in wage group No 7, which means that they earn between 24 and 32 Kc per hour.

Forced Labour

26. "Near the Hradek plant is a forced labour camp which belongs administratively to the Bory Prison in Pilsen. About 100 prisoners work in the steel plant in Hradek. They are guarded by 15 members of the factory militia under the command of (fnu) Suchy, a fervent Communist who is very tough to the prisoners.
27. "The majority of the prisoners are political. They are assigned to the hardest and most unhealthy jobs, jobs to which free workers are transferred only as a punishment, for example:

Unloading of coal, lime, bricks, pipes, etc
 Attending rolling machines in rolling mill No. 1
 Loading slag
 Unskilled jobs in the finishing workshops
 Unskilled jobs at construction sites
 Jobs in the store rooms for lime and cement, etc.

It should be noted that the majority of these prisoners are in bad health with reduced physical capacities.

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28. "The reason why prisoners are assigned to such heavy jobs is that this kind of work is not all mechanized. Almost everything has to be done by hand. The prisoners are organized in working teams of four. A sample daily norm for such a team consists of unloading eight freight [] each containing 20 tons of coal. This is a tough job even when the huge coal sheds are empty. When they are not empty and must be cleared at the same time, the fulfillment of the norm is beyond human capability.
29. "The prisoners assigned to unload lime and other corrosive materials are issued no protective masks, not even goggles. Parts of their body where they perspire are constantly irritated and turned into open wounds. The working conditions of prisoners assigned to the rolling mill No. 1 are little better, owing to lack of mechanization and of protective facilities. Prisoners frequently collapse because they cannot bear the intense heat."

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